Malkin eyes a return to the ice against Buffalo — Sports, C-1

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Senators spar over tax deal

Toomey, Sanders fight over package of cuts

By Tracie Mauriello
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans weighed scaling back the tax cuts in their massive package to secure crucial support as congressional analysts said Thursday the legislation would add $1 trillion to the nation's debt over the next decade.

The late-night shifts followed a Democratic attempt to return the controversial tax package to committee and some unexpected drama on the Senate floor.

U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., appeared to be mollifier in chief as members of his caucus huddled around GOP holdout Bob Corker of Tennessee.

Mr. Corker along with Republican deficit hawks Sens. Jeff Flake of Arizona and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin were — briefly, it turned out — withholding their crucial votes to defeat Democrats' motion to recommit, which could have jeopardized passage this year.

The scramble to alter the bill came after senators said the chamber's parliamentarian had ruled that automatic "triggers" designed to guard against big deficits would violate Senate rules.

Mr. Toomey appeared

SEE **TAX**, PAGE A-7

SPEAKING OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE

Rebecca Droke/Post-Gazette

Connie Moore embraces her granddaughter Savannah Morris, 6, during a news conference Thursday to address a recent rash of shootings in the Hill District. The Black Political Empowerment Project and other community groups gathered for a call to action to end the violence. Ms. Moore's only son and father of Savannah, Hosea Davis, was killed in a shooting in 2014. Story on A-10.

East End public housing long plagued by problems

Complaints date back at least five years

By Kate Giammarise
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Tenants had been complaining for years about problems — rodent and pest infestations, broken pipes, sewage backups and more — at Bethesda-Homewood Properties.

Officials announced in October that more than 100 East End families could relocate from the privately owned, federally subsidized apartments due to poor housing conditions. But the properties had been plagued by problems for at least five years, according to records from the Allegheny County Health Department.

In a statement, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development said it "was actively engaged in holding the owner responsible for bringing the property up to the department's housing standards" but provided no details or specifics about any action it took prior to finally suspending subsidy payments to the property's owners at the end of October.

The owner of the property is legally responsible to correct

SEE **HOUSING**, PAGE A-6

Target scouts locations in Downtown

Macy's/Kaufmann's building is one spot the retailer has visited

By Mark Belko
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Target appears to be in the hunt for a possible Downtown location.

The discount retail chain has been scouting potential sites in the Golden Triangle, according to local real estate sources.

Among the locations Target has looked at is the former Macy's/Kaufmann's department store, where Philadelphia developer Core Realty is planning 120,000 square feet of retail space as part of a remake that includes 311 apartments and a 160-room hotel.

Just how serious Target is in Downtown is hard to gauge. Local developers have been trying for years to persuade the retailer to open a store in the Golden Triangle.

A survey of residents and pedestrians conducted by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership last year found high demand for a discount/mass retail chain, with Target being No. 1 on the list.

In a statement, Liz Hancock, a Target spokeswoman, did not specifically say whether the retailer is considering a store Downtown.

"Target enjoys serving local guests at 18 stores across Pittsburgh and continuously explores possible locations for new stores in the area. We're always looking for new opportunities to better serve our guests but we don't have any stores news to share for Pittsburgh," she said.

Herky Pollock, the CBRE executive vice president and one of the region's top retail brokers, said a TargetExpress, a smaller store designed for urban locations, would be a good fit Downtown.

"Given the abundance of new residential that has been built, the 140,000 daytime population and the vibrancy that has been created, a newTargetExpress would be an ideal complement to the Downtown Pittsburgh landscape," he said.

In October, Target opened 11 smaller-format stores in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Minneapolis,

SEE **TARGET**, PAGE A-2

Trump weighs plan to oust Rex Tillerson

By Josh Lederman and Jill Colvin
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After months of clashes on policy and personality, President Donald Trump is considering ousting Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and replacing him with hard-nosed CIA Director Mike Pompeo following less than a year on the job, senior U.S. officials said Thursday as turmoil within Mr. Trump's national security team burst into the open.

The White House plan, which Mr. Trump has not yet signed off on, would force a major

SEE **TILLERSON**, PAGE A-8

Jim Watson/AFP/Getty Images

WELL LIT President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump walk on the stage during the 95th annual National Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony Thursday in President's Park near the White House.

Basketball broadcasters share the city, unmatched longevity

By Craig Meyer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

If you told Bill Hillgrove and Ray Goss nearly 50 years ago that in 2017 they still would be piloting radio broadcasts for the men's basketball teams at Pitt and Duquesne, respectively, you would have received similar responses.

"I would have told you that's far-fetched," Hillgrove said. "I would have been happy with 20 years."

"No way," Goss said. "Of course, I never thought I would be 80 years old, but that's what I am. You never think about those things. Now, I look at it and say, 'This is crazy.' "

In the years since the two assumed their current posts — Goss in 1968, Hillgrove in 1969 — their broadcasts have been a constant for those who follow the programs. Their voices carry weight and command respect, making them chroniclers of the present and custodians of the past.

Together, the two men who have built their careers an eight-minute drive apart hold a noteworthy honor. With Goss in his 50th season calling Duquesne games and Hillgrove in his 49th

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Weather
Mostly sunny.
Daytime high 47, tonight's low 29.
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